UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/48/64
21 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 123 and 24

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.2

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 10, 17 and 23 of the draft resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.2 the General Assembly would:

(a) Take note with appreciation of the establishment of a panel of high-level personalities to advise and assist the Secretary-General on African development, in particular on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and request that this panel continue to meet regularly under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General and that its recommendations be made available to the Member States;

(b) Invite the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity and capability of the Secretariat to raise international awareness of the urgent international and African actions needed to overcome the economic crisis in Africa, and to reinforce the capabilities of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the least developed countries to follow up, monitor and evaluate implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and, in the process, provide an effective framework for the Economic and Social Council to consider the implementation of the New Agenda in 1995 as part of its high-level segment, as well as for the General Assembly to conduct a mid-term review of the implementation in 1996 of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in accordance with paragraph 43 (b) and (c) thereof;

(c) Decide to address rigorously the full range of issues related to the diversification of African economies, with particular attention to the issues outlined in operative paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 of the resolution, and, for this purpose, to convene in the first quarter of 1994, on the basis of background documents to be prepared by the Secretary-General, intensive consultations involving concerned and interested States, together with relevant financial institutions and United Nations organizations, including, inter alia, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to undertake a study in consultation with relevant financial institutions recommending appropriate measures to improve further financial intermediation systems and practices in African countries to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, which should take into account an in-depth analysis of the current traditional systems and practices of capital formation at the local level and the kind of support measures the international community could provide.

2. In connection with the activities proposed under operative paragraphs 2, 10 and 23 of the draft resolution, the estimated cost requirements would amount to $192,500, broken down as follows:

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(a)	Operative paragraph 2:	
	Travel and per diem for members of the panel of high-level personalities on African development to attend four meetings of the panel during the biennium of one week's duration for each meeting.	80 000
	Travel of staff to the panel's meetings	15 000
	Total	95 000
(b)	Operative paragraph 10:	
	General temporary assistance for 6 work-months at the P-4 level for the Economic Commission for Africa to facilitate the data-gathering, analysis and reporting activities relating to the New Agenda in the context of the activities of the Inter-agency Task Force for Africa's Critical Economic Situation, Recovery and Development	67 500
(c)	Operative paragraph 23:	
	General temporary assistance for 4 work-months at the P-3 level to undertake a study of financial systems and practices in African countries	30 000
	Grand total	192 500

3. As regards the activities referred to in operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution, the related conference-servicing requirements would be accommodated from within the provision included under section 25, Administration and management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, 1/ which has been made not only for meetings already known of at the time of the budget preparation, but also for meetings or extensions of such meetings that may be authorized subsequently, based on the pattern that has emerged over the previous five years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for the implementation of the activities referred to in operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution.

4. With regard to the requirements estimated in paragraph 2 above ($192,500) it should be noted that a provision in the amount of $40,000 has been included under section 8, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 2/ for the Office of the Special Coordinator in relation to the New Agenda. This provision could be utilized towards partial absorption of the estimated requirements. Thus, the additional requirements which would be subject to operation and use of the contingency fund amount to $152,500.

5. In summary, subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund, an additional appropriation of $152,500 is requested under section 8, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Notes

1/ A/48/6 (sect. 25).

2/ A/48/6 (sect. 8).